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THE C. C. C. AND OUR NATIONAL PLAN FOR AMERICAN FORESTRY.

A radio talk by R. F. Hammatt, Assistant Regional Forester, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, Thursday, September 7, 1933, and broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

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Last spring, in response to a resolution of the United States Senate, the Federal Forest Service prepared, and the Secretary of Agriculture transmitted to Congress, a report entitled "A National Plan for American Forestry." It was the most comprehensive report ever compiled on our Nation's forest situation. And it contained recommendations for coordinated action by the Federal Government, the States, the forest industries, and the private land owners, that would at last give adequate protection and management to our forest resources; that would make them capable of providing permanent employment to some two million men; that would insure the maintenance of our forest resources in a permanently productive condition, and the continuance of their services to our national welfare.

I wish there were copies of this report available for all of you. It would merit the earnest study of every man and woman who is interested in the economic and social problems of the present day.

This year, 1933, we have made a start toward that new deal in our National Conservation Program.

The President's Emergency Conservation Work, together with the Public Works program, have permitted that start toward meeting some of the objectives of the "National Plan for American Forestry."

When the Emergency Conservation Work plan was conceived, the crying national need was for relief. Of the 300,000 men enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps by far the majority were from larger cities like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago. They had never seen the woods. Idle and undernourished as a result of conditions over which they had no control, they were incapable of normal, sustained, physical effort. They were discouraged, and their morale was low.

Visualizing these facts, special measures for execution by the Army were taken to assure that these men should be conditioned and that they might have certain living and work conditions, medical care, food and recreation. Results in man-building have been phenomenal.

Woods work played its part in this development. It is work which, continued over the years, will help to put our forest properties in condition so that they, together with our primary forest industries, may support two million men year after year. In spite of the time and effort expended on major objectives of relief and rehabilitation, there has already resulted a total volume of work accomplished that is truly impressive.

Most of that work had long been planned by Federal and State forestry agencies for orderly accomplishment over the years.

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It was no light task to re-align thousands of those previously planned projects (scattered throughout the most inaccessible portions of forty-seven States and of Alaska and Puerto Rico as well), to correlate those jobs and fit them to the new needs for 200-man camps, for inexperienced men and for four to five rather than eight hours of actual work per day, and to locate the camps from which the work might best be done.

To figure out the most effective tools to be used in all different classes of work, to procure and distribute those tools to the forest camps, to locate, secure, transport and deliver equipment, was another job. Experienced overhead -- men with knowledge of the various jobs (many of which were highly specialized) and the ability to lead, also had to be obtained, instructed, and assigned. And the enrolled men, as they were turned over by Army officers at camps each morning, had to be taught, encouraged, supervised and turned back again to the Army in the afternoon.

This, for 118,200 men in 591 camps located on the national forests, was the task assigned to the Federal Forest Service. And in addition the Forest Service had to recommend for or against all projects on State and private lands (excepting State parks) and to supervise, and assist and advise with State authorities in the conduct of all work being done by the men from the hundreds of camps established on State and private lands.

In addition to the Civilian Conservation Corps program, another big work program is now going forward in the forests. For as a part of the Public Works program to provide employment and stimulate recovery, allotments have been made this year to the Forest Service for (1) The construction of forest highways; (2) The construction of minor roads and trails; (3) The construction of additional facilities and the improvement existing forest resources.

Projects undertaken as a result of these Public Works allotments are also those which carefully had been weighed and planned in advance.

Forest highways necessary for administration of the national forests, but of primary importance to States, counties or communities within or adjacent to those forests. Minor roads and trails are those which experts in the Federal Forest Service consider essential to further development of national forest properties. The additional facilities for which provision has been made are those urgently needed to safeguard national forest properties from destruction by fire, insects and fungus diseases. And existing resources, including growing forests, range for domestic stock, camp-grounds and recreational facilities, are also being improved under the provisions laid down.

All this work under Public Works allotments is being undertaken from camps located directly on the various jobs. Each crew is the size best suited to the specific job on which it is working. Men who are experienced, and physically fit, are employed. They receive wages at the going rate and are not paid for the lunch hour or for travel time to and from their camps and the woods work. There is, therefore, every reason to expect for this work an output per man-day, week or month, which meets in every way the high standards previously set for similar work done on the national forests under the direct supervision of the Federal Forest Service.

Our forest problem, which is decidedly one of our major national problems, is now before the people of the United States. There is before the Congress a carefully conceived plan for solution of that problem. During the days of our adversity a precious start has been given toward the accomplishment of that plan.

The need points toward sustained action translated into immediate work for more and more men; toward work which, when done, will have rebuilt our forest properties, made them permanently productive, and created places for two million men in permanent worth-while forest jobs.

U. S. G. O.

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